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CIA PROTESTORS CLAIM VICTORY
IOWA CITY, IA

Organizers of a University of Iowa protest said they claimed a victory when a CIA recruiter rescheduled his interview sessions and left campus before a planned rally against CIA terrorism.

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About 15 students entered the university's career placement office where CIA recruiter John Hopkins was expected to conclude interviews with job-seeking students at about 10 a.m. Friday.

The protesters, who said they were part of a nationwide effort co-ordinated by the Progressive Student Network, had said Thursday they would make a citizens arrest on Hopkins if he remained on campus Friday.

However, when the students arrived, office director Don Moffit said the job interviews had been moved up before 8 a.m. to give Hopkins "a little more time."

"We are declaring a victory," said Molly Eness, one of the rally organizers and a member of the student political group New Wave. "They obviously will go to great lengths to avoid us."

"Our main goal was to get them off campus today. Our long-term goal is for them never to return," she said. "We plan to keep them off legally, but if we can't, we'll do it any way we can."

Nearly 500 people, mostly students, were arrested in a three-day anti-CIA demonstration at the University of Colorado this week.

Eness said the CIA's terrorist activities in Nicaragua and around the world "are completely out of line" with the University of Iowa's human rights policies.

The protestors intended to make a citizen's arrest under federal law because the CIA has violated a number of international laws, including the Boland Amendment to the Intelligence Act, which prevents intervention in Nicaragua for the purpose of overthrowing the government, she said.

Moffit said the placement office opened for business "a little earlier" than the usual 8:15 a.m.

"(Hopkins) was scheduled to be gone by 10 a.m. and he was gone. We moved it up just to give us a little margin, but nobody asked us when the schedules were. It was just a matter of giving him a little bit of time," Moffit said.

However, Joe Iosbaker, a New Wave member, said the CIA interviews at the university were changed with no public announcement because school administrators wanted to avoid publicity.

"Does it have anything to do with what is happening around the country, with the people arrested in Boulder," Iosbaker asked Moffit. "Does it have anything to do with cops having to bust heads in Madison to clear a hallway. Does it have anything to do with 100 students occupying the library in Columbia for a week now?"

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Moffit said CIA officials interviewed 11 persons during a two-day visit to the campus. However, he said more than 100 students applied for the interviews.

Mike Henry, another student protestor, said it was the students "duty as peace-loving people" to end the CIA recruiting at the university.

"We don't want CUA, we dont want any of these terrorists back on our campus," Tom Wilson said.

"It's not right for us to tolerate the recruiting of bloody people for this bloody occupation of theirs -- going around killing innocent people in Nicaragua and around the world," he said. "If you bring them back, we are going to be back also."